

## NUCMC Catalog Record

Creator: Van Dresar, Francis, b. 1838.

Title: Civil War letter of Francis Van Dresar.

Date created: 1863 Aug. 23.

Extent: 1 item (3 p.).

Location: Navarro College, Corsicana, Tex.

Biographical note: Born Aug. 23, 1838, in western New York; enlisted as private in the 117th New York Infantry Regiment, Company D, on Aug. 13, 1862; wounded at Chaffin's Farm, Va., on Sept. 29, 1864; after being mustered out on July 8, 1865, he lived in Oneida County, N.Y.

Summary: Van Dresar's letter expresses his patriotic feelings about the Union but fears the people of the North may be tiring of war, and praises the black troops of the 54th USCT for their actions at Fort Wagner. Van Dresar and his regiment participated in the siege of Fort Wagner, and he commented on the valor of Colonel J. Shaw's 54th USCT in their ill-fated charge on that fortification. "A few miles above here on another island is where the 54th colored Regt. of Mass. fought bravely & Col Shaw with over three hundred of his brave Blacks fell in the charge. White men need not talk & censure the valor & fighting quality of that race. They are fighting for Liberty; they know it; & God who presides over us knows it."

Subjects: Shaw, Robert Gould, -- 1837-1863.  
United States. -- Army. -- New York Infantry Regiment, 117th (1862-1865). -- Company D.  
United States. -- Army. -- Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, 54th (1863-1865)  
United States. -- Army -- African American troops.  
Soldiers -- New York (State) -- Correspondence.  
Morris Island, Battle of, S.C., 1863 (July 10-September 7)  
New York (State) -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns.  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.  
South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Massachusetts -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Participation, African American.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Participation, African American.  
Soldiers -- United States.